

Message Text

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52

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 IO-12 ADP-00 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 NEA-10 GAC-01 TRSE-00 MBFR-03

SAJ-01 ACDA-19 RSR-01 AID-20 EB-11 CIEP-02 STR-08

OMB-01 CEA-02 EA-11 /206 W
----- 064543

R 131555 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7975

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION USUN NY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 4116

E. 9. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, MX

SUBJ: ECHEVERRIA BEGINS SOVIET VISIT

1. SUMMARY: SOVIETS HAVE PULLED OUT ALL STOPS FOR VISITING MEXICAN PRESIDENT. PODGORNYY PUT MEXICO IN CAMPNAY OF LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES STRUGGLING AGAINST IMPERIALISM, OF WHICH HE NAMED CUBA, CHILE AND PERU. ECHEVERRIA AIMED POINTED CRITICISM AT GREAT POWERS, ESPECIALLY IN DISARMAMENT CONTEXT. END SUMMARY.

2. MEXICAN PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA ARRIVED MOSCOW APRIL 12 AND IS RECEIVING FIRST- RANK TREATMENT COMPARABLE TO THAT GIVEN TO PRESIDENT NIXON LAST YEAR. HE WAS MET AT AIRPORT BY KOSYGIN AND PODGORNYY, TOGETHER WITH MINISTERS OF DEFENSE, FOREIGN AFFAIRS, FOREIGN TRADE, CULTURE AND OTHERS. HE IS BEING HOUSED IN KREMLIN AS WAS PRESIDENT NIXON (ALTHOUGH PUBLIC IS NOT
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BARRED FROM ENTIRE AREAS AS WAS CASE DURING US- SOVIET SUMMIT). BREZHNEV HEADED SOVIET PARTICIPANTS IN FIRST ROUND OF TALKS APRIL 12, WITH KOSYGIN AND PODGORNYY ALSO PRESENT. GOOD TURNOUT FROM POLITBURO, INCLUDING ALL THREE TOP LEADERS, ATTENDED BANQUET ON EVENING OF ARRIVAL.

3. PODGORNYY IN BANQUET SPEECH RESTATED SOVIET LATIN AMERICAN POLICY IN ANTI- IMPERIALIST TERMS, LEAVENED WITH APPROVING REFERENCES TO BREZHNEV ASSESSMENT OF FAVORABLE CLIMATE FOR DETENTE AND PEACE THROUGHOUT WORLD. PODGORNYY GAVE STRONG EMPHASIS TO MEXICAN DRIVE TOWARD ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE, WHICH HE PLACED IN CONTEXT OF COMMON STRUGGLE AGAINST IMPERIALISM. OTHER COUNTRIES SIMILARLY MENTIONED WERE CUBA, CHILE AND PERU. PODGORNYY SPOKE IN PREDICTABLY WARM TERMS OF PAST, PRESENT AND POTENTIAL SOVIET- MEXICAN RELATIONS, PRAISED MEXICAN STRUGGLES FOR NATIONAL AND SOCIAL LIBERATION, BUT AVOIDED REFERENCE TO MEXICAN REVOLUTION OR INTERNAL POLITICAL DYNAMICS. PASSING ALLUSIONS TO VIETNAM, EUROPEAN SECURITY AND MIDDLE EAST WERE STANDARD LANGUAGE.

4. ECHEVERRIA'S SPEECH WAS IMPLICITLY CRITICAL OF GREAT POWERS BUT LAUDED SOVIET- MEXICAN RELATIONS OVER THE YEARS. PARALLEL BETWEEN RUSSIAN AND MEXICAN REVOLUTIONS WHICH PODGORNYY AVOIDED WAS STRESSED BY ECHEVERRIA. HE REJECTED EFFORTS BY ANY POWER TO GAIN HEGEMONY OR ESTABLISH SPHERES OF INFLUENCE, AVOIDING SPECIFIC EXAMPLES. HE EXPRESSED DISSATISFACTION OVER BILATERAL DISARMAMENT AGREEMENTS THAT SIMPLY RESULTED IN REPLACING ONE TYPE OF WEAPON WITH ANOTHER, AND WAS EVEN MORE CRITICAL OF LACK OF PROGRESS IN MULTILATERAL DISARMAMENT FIELD. IN CONTRAST, HE PRAISED TREATY OF TLAQUELOTE AND SOMEWHAT CRYPTICALLY ADDED THAT USSR HAD ALWAYS CONTRIBUTED TO CREATION OF NUCLEAR- FREE ZONES. FINALLY, HE APPEALED FOR SUPPORT OF NEW WORLD STRUCTURE, INCLUDING UN EFFORT TO DRAW UP CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS.

5. NEITHER SOVIETS NOR MEXICANS MENTIONED US BY NAME.
DUBS

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OTTAWA
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